

DDI-534-75

Executive Registry

75-4858

25 February 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
FROM : Deputy Director for Intelligence  
SUBJECT : Trends in the Volume of Information

1. This memorandum is for your information and requires no action. The memorandum and its attachments summarize the flow of classified documents and cables within and into CIA over the past few years. The data include only the flow into the Cable Secretariat and the Central Reference Service.

2. The overall trend was down in CY 1974 with decreases in document receipts from all sources for the fifth straight year. Some of this overall decrease is attributable to:

- The wind-down of direct US participation in the war in Vietnam.
- More selective collection and reporting from the field.
- More responsiveness to consumer requirements.
- Personnel cuts.

In addition, the limited number of international crisis situations during 1974 may account for some of the drop in the flow of information reports, particularly in the codeword category.

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3. Attachment A portrays the general trends in document receipts for CY 1968-CY 1974. Non-codeword cable traffic handled by the Cable Secretariat dropped 8% in 1974, to its lowest level in four years. Codeword reports received for dissemination by CRS decreased 16% in CY 1974. Non-codeword receipts dropped only 2%, almost stabilizing the downward trend for non-codeword reports begun in 1969.

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4. Attachment B is a detailed table comparing CY 1973 and CY 1974 receipts by source.

[REDACTED]

of messages in sections resulting in shorter messages, received more frequently. There were no other significant increases in document receipts in CY 1974.

5. The DDO deserves particular recognition for its CY 1974 efforts in the area of information flow. Time lags, noted earlier in the receipt of some DDO [REDACTED] reports, decreased considerably in CY 1974. This, and the consistent effort put forth by the DDO to ensure that all of its reports and enclosures are sent to CRS for the centralized document storage and retrieval system have increased the availability of DDO reports to the Agency at large.

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6. The continued downward trend in document flow seems to give additional credence to those who feel, as I do, that the so-called "information explosion"--at least with respect to documents and cables the analysts handle--just doesn't exist.

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[REDACTED]

EDWARD W. PROCTOR  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachments:  
As Stated

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